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सन 1857 की आँकियाँ

# कुँवर सिंह





# KUNWAR SINGH

PRASANTH  
CIRCULATING LIBRARY  
GOKULAM, MYSORE



557: A FOREST IN JAGDISHPUR, BIHAR —



SHABASH, BABU!



I CANNOT BELIEVE YOU ARE SEVENTY-FIVE!



MR. TAYLER, I HATE MYSELF EVERY TIME I SHOOT A TIGER.



I HAVE BEEN USING THIS RIFLE ONLY TO KILL POOR ANIMALS...



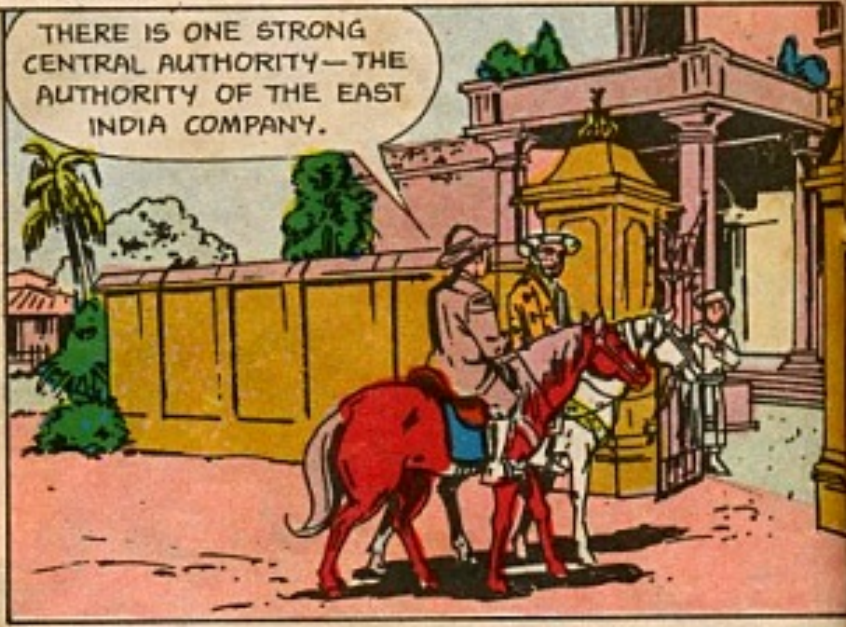
...AND NEVER IN A BATTLE.

YOU MUST THANK US FOR THAT, BABU.



YES, BABU KUNWAR SINGH. THAT'S WHAT THE BRITISH EMPIRE HAS ACHIEVED IN INDIA. NO MORE WARS BETWEEN PETTY PRINCIPALITIES.

THERE IS ONE STRONG CENTRAL AUTHORITY—THE AUTHORITY OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.



AND THOSE WHO NEED EXCITEMENT CAN ALWAYS SHOOT TIGERS!

DON'T TELL ME YOU WANT TO SHOOT ME INSTEAD! HA! HA!

OF COURSE, NOT!



YOU ARE A FINE GENTLEMAN, MR. TAYLER, YOU TRY TO UNDERSTAND US. WE HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR YOU.

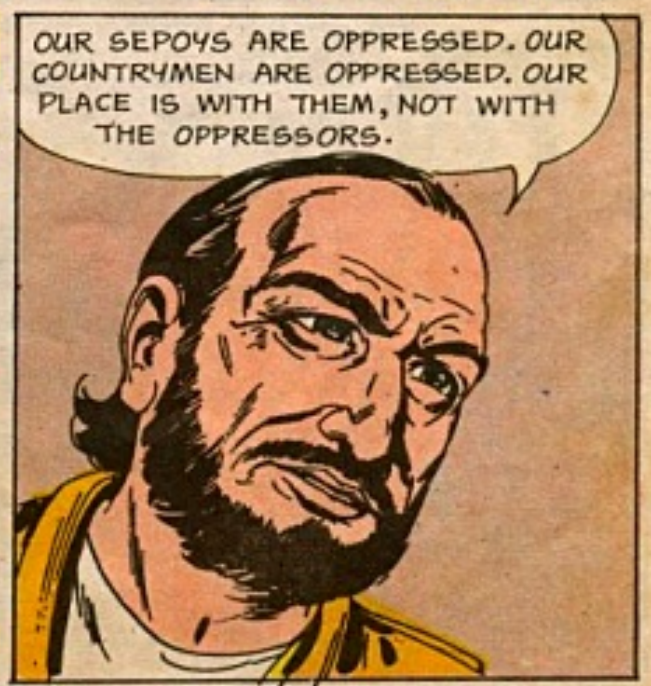
THE FEELING IS MUTUAL, KUNWAR SINGH.



I THANK YOU, MY FRIEND, FOR EVERYTHING.









JUNE 1857: PATNA —

NO, MY DEAR MAN. I DON'T AGREE WITH YOU. KUNWAR SINGH IS ABSOLUTELY RELIABLE.



MR. TAYLER, TEN YEARS AGO SOMEONE THREW A PARCEL INTO A WELL IN PATNA.



WE RETRIEVED THE PARCEL.



IT CONTAINED LETTERS TO LEADERS IN PATNA INVITING THEM TO RISE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.



AND THE LETTERS BORE THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION OF KUNWAR SINGH'S SEAL!



BUT HE WAS NOT ARRESTED BECAUSE THE PROOF WAS NOT CONCLUSIVE.









JULY 24, 1857: DINAPORE —

CAPTAIN DUNBAR, DISARM THE NATIVE SEPOYS. TAKE BACK THE PERCUSSION CAPS ISSUED TO THEM.

YES, GENERAL LLOYD.

WE HAVE THE TROOPS OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH FOOT AS A STANDBY, IN CASE...

LET'S HOPE THERE WON'T BE ANY TROUBLE.

AT THE SPECIAL AFTERNOON PARADE —

...SO WE WANT YOU TO GIVE UP THE PERCUSSION CAPS ISSUED TO YOU...

YOU WANT THE CAPS, DO YOU? HERE, TAKE THEM.

BANG!

THE BRITISH SOLDIERS PANICKED AND RETURNED FIRE.

BANG!

FIRE!







JULY 26, 1857: ARRAH, THE HEADQUARTERS OF SHAHABAD DISTRICT —





...TILL HELP ARRIVES FROM PATNA.

WHERE ARE  
THE MUTINEERS,  
MR. WAKE?



**BANG!**

THERE!  
YOUR  
QUESTION  
HAS BEEN  
ANSWERED.



OUTSIDE THE FORTIFIED HOUSE—

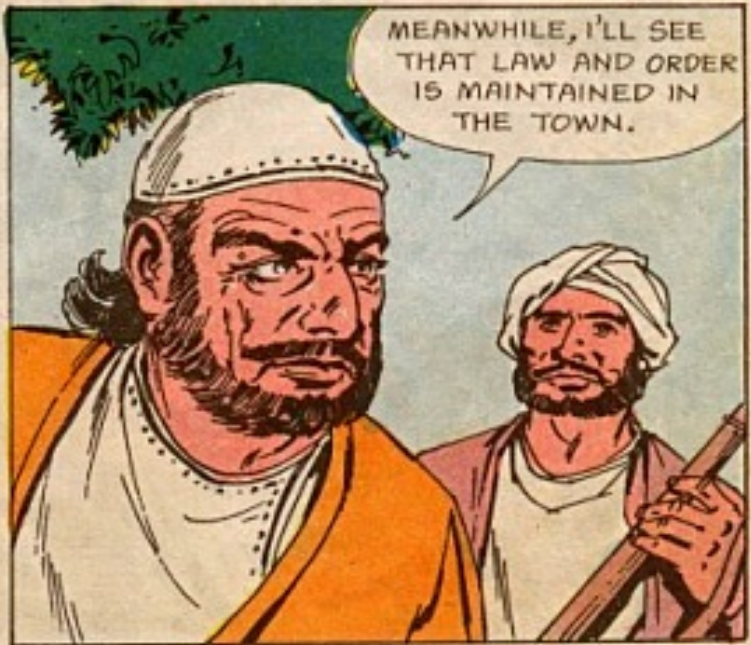
THE WHOLE TOWN IS TAKEN  
RAJA SAHEB, EXCEPT FOR  
THIS HOUSE.



LAY SIEGE TO THE HOUSE AND  
POST SCOUTS TO KEEP A LOOK-  
OUT. I AM SURE A RESCUE PARTY  
WILL SOON  
ARRIVE.



MEANWHILE, I'LL SEE  
THAT LAW AND ORDER  
IS MAINTAINED  
IN THE TOWN.





JULY 29, 1857 —

RAJA SAHEB, A BOAT-LOAD OF EUROPEANS AND SIKHS HAS BEEN SPOTTED WAY DOWN THE RIVER.

SO THEY HAVE ARRIVED AT LAST.

SHALL WE PREVENT THEM FROM LANDING?

NO. LET THEM LAND. LET THEM CROSS THE BRIDGE TOO. THEN...

AT THE BRIDGE —

CAPTAIN, SHALL WE REST OUR MEN FOR A WHILE WHEN WE'VE CROSSED THE BRIDGE?

NO! WE MARCH ON.

JULY 30, 1857 —

A FEW MORE MILES TO GO...

AH!

BANG!

MOST OF THE MEN IN THE RESCUE PARTY WERE KILLED IN THE AMBUSH. THE FEW WHO SURVIVED RAN FOR THEIR LIVES.



AUGUST 2, 1857 —

RAJA SAHEB, THE ENEMY  
HAS BEEN SIGHTED  
NEAR BIBIGANJ!

WE'LL MOVE  
ON THERE,  
THEN.



LATER, AT THE FORTIFIED HOUSE OF  
MR. BOYLE —

OUR TORMENTORS  
HAVE VANISHED.

WHAT COULD HAVE  
HAPPENED?



SOME TIME LATER —

OPEN THE DOOR!

AT LAST!  
OUR MEN!



I WOULD LIKE TO  
MEET MR. WAKE.

I AM  
MR. WAKE.



GOOD MORNING, SIR. I AM  
MAJOR VINCENT EYRE OF  
THE BENGAL ARTILLERY.

I WAS ON MY WAY TO ALLAH-  
BAD WHEN I HEARD ABOUT  
THE SITUATION HERE. I TOOK  
THE ROAD TO ARRAH.

I MUST THANK  
PROVIDENCE FOR  
SENDING YOU  
THIS WAY.



ANOTHER DAY AND  
WE WOULD HAVE  
SURRENDERED.









THE RAMGARH INFANTRY HAS REVOLTED. SO HAS THE HAZARI-BAGH INFANTRY. AND MR. TAYLER HAS BEEN REPLACED BY MR. SAMUELLS AS THE COMMISSIONER OF PATNA.

EACH ONE HAS HIS OWN PROBLEMS I GUESS.

LET US NOT WASTE ANY TIME. WE MUST CAPTURE KUNWAR SINGH BEFORE HE JOINS THE MUTINEERS FROM HAZARIBAGH.

HOWEVER, WHEN THEY BURST INTO KUNWAR SINGH'S RESIDENCE AT JAGDISHPUR —

CONFISCATE THE AMMUNITION! DESTROY WHAT WE CANNOT CARRY AND BLOW UP THE BUILDINGS!

THE BIRD HAS FLOWN!

LATER —

CAPTAIN, I CAN NOW RESUME MY JOURNEY TO ALLAHABAD.

I HOPE YOU SUCCEED IN CATCHING THAT WILY, OLD FOX. GOOD LUCK!



AT PATNA MESSAGES STARTED POURING IN.

KUNWAR SINGH WAS SEEN AT SASARAM.

KUNWAR SINGH HAS TAKEN REWA!

KUNWAR SINGH PASSED THROUGH RAMGARH!

THIS OLD MAN OF SEVENTY-FIVE IS LEADING US A PRETTY DANCE, I DARE SAY!

HERE IS THE LATEST MESSAGE, SIR.

HE JOINED HANDS WITH NANA SAHEB AND FOUGHT TO RECAPTURE CAWNPORE. WE WON.

DID WE TAKE HIM CAPTIVE?

NO, SIR. AT THE MOMENT HE'S CAMPING AT ATRAULIA.

WE'RE LUCKY HE'S NOT FORTY YEARS YOUNGER!



MEANWHILE, AT KOELSA\* WHERE COLONEL MILMAN OF THE 37TH REGIMENT WAS CAMPING—



KUNWAR SINGH AND HIS MEN ARE AT ATRAULIA, COLONEL. HE'S CAMPING IN THE MANGO GROVE.



WE WILL STOP HIM BEFORE HE REACHES AZAMGARH.

COLONEL MILMAN MARCHED THROUGH THE NIGHT...



...AND REACHED ATRAULIA.



WE'RE JUST IN TIME.

IN THE PITCHED BATTLE FOUGHT IN THE MANGO GROVE...



...MILMAN SCORED AN EASY VICTORY.



THAT WAS A GOOD JOB WASN'T IT, COLONEL?

OUR MEN HAVE EARNED A REST. ARRANGE FOR BREAKFAST!





# BIHAR

Script: Swarn Khandpur.  
Illustrated by: S.K. Parab



TOWARDS THE END OF THE TWELFTH CENTURY, MUHAMMAD-BIN BAKHTIYAR KHALJI INVADIED NALANDA AND THE UNIVERSITY TOWN OF CDANTPURI (MODERN BIHAR-SHARIF). HE FOUND A LARGE NUMBER OF BOOKS THERE. ON BEING TOLD THAT THE TOWN WAS A VIHARA, A PLACE OF LEARNING, HE TOO CALLED IT VIHARA, WHICH BY AND BY, BECAME BIHAR.

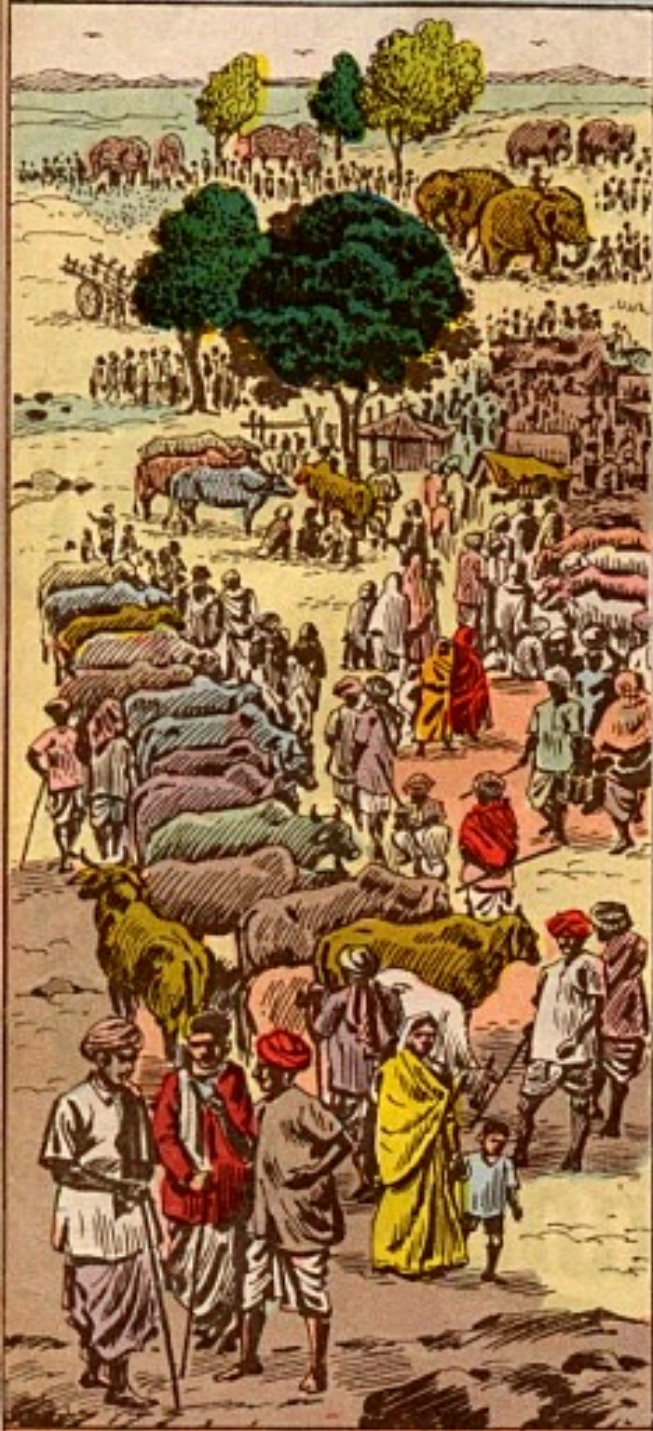
BIHAR HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS THE RICHEST STATE OF THE COUNTRY AS IT IS ABUNDANTLY ENDOWED WITH RICH MINERALS LIKE IRON AND COAL. TWO BIG STEEL PLANTS AND SEVERAL OTHER INDUSTRIES HAVE BEEN SET UP IN THE STATE.



THE MAHATMA GANDHI SETU OVER THE RIVER GANGA WHICH FLOWS RIGHT ACROSS BIHAR CUTTING IT IN TWO, IS THE LONGEST RIVER BRIDGE IN THE WORLD.



ONE OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CATTLE AND ELEPHANT FAIRS IS HELD AT SONPUR, ON THE RIVER GANDAK, NEAR PATNA. FOR A MONTH IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE THROG HERE COMBINING BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE.

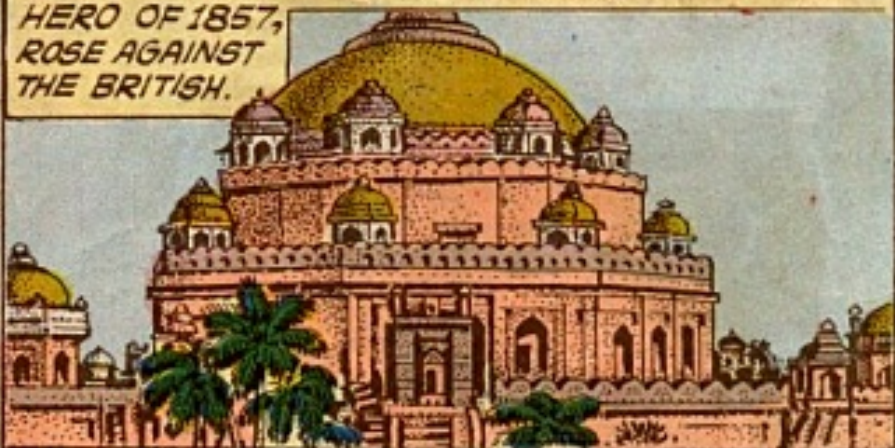


PATNA, THE CAPITAL OF BIHAR WAS FOUNDED BY SHER SHAH SUR, AT THE SITE WHERE THE ANCIENT CITY OF PATALIPUTRA WAS. FROM A PETTY AFGHAN CHIEF...

...SHER SHAH ROSE TO BECOME THE 'EMPEROR OF HINDUSTAN'.



HIS TOMB AT SASARAM LIES IN SHAHABAD DISTRICT WHERE KUNWAR SINGH, THE BIHAR HERO OF 1857, ROSE AGAINST THE BRITISH.



ONE OF THE MOST FASCINATING PLACES IN PATNA IS THE KHUDA BAKSH ORIENTAL LIBRARY. IT CONTAINS SOME OF THE RAREST MANUSCRIPTS ON ISLAMIC LITERATURE, PRICELESS MINIATURES AND PAINTINGS.





SOON —

AH! TEA!



JUST THEN —

COLONEL! IT WAS ONLY THE VANGUARD THAT WE REPELLED. KUNWAR SINGH IS ADVANCING WITH THE BULK OF HIS ARMY.

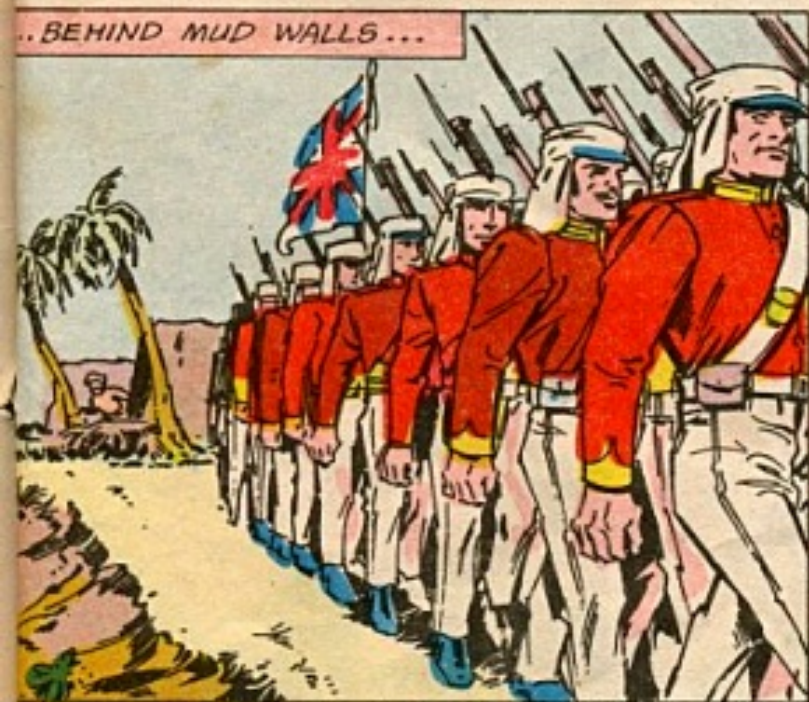
WHAT!

WE'LL MEET HIM!  
COME ON, BOYS.

MILMAN'S EVERY MOVE WAS WATCHED BY KUNWAR SINGH'S MEN HIDING IN SUGAR-CANE FIELDS...



... BEHIND MUD WALLS ...



... AND ATOP TREES.









KUNWAR SINGH'S MEN TOOK OVER THE TOWN AND THREW A BLOCKADE ROUND THE JAIL.



HOWEVER, MESSENGERS HAD ALREADY LEFT WITH THE NEWS.

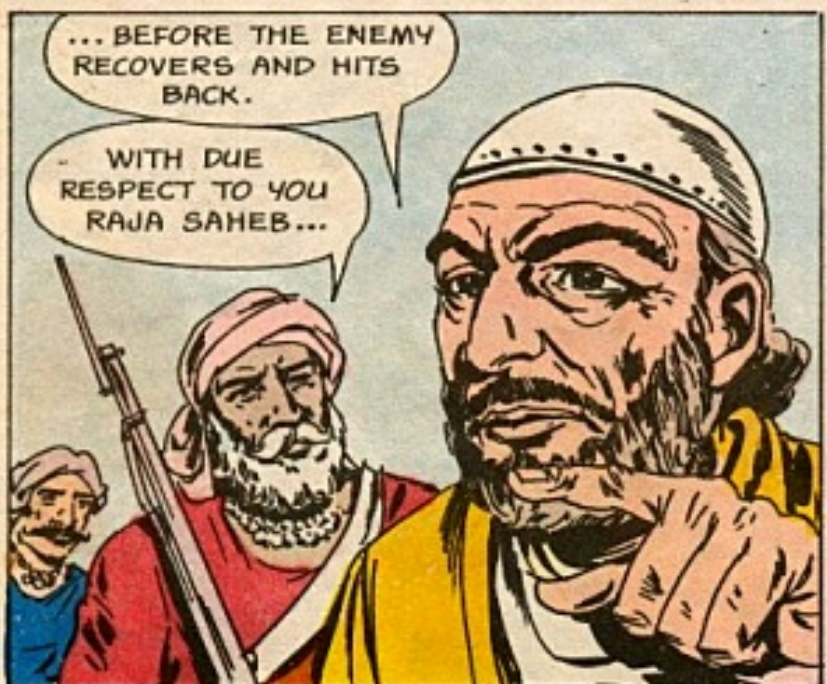
AT ALLAHABAD THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, LORD CANNING CONFERRED WITH SENIOR OFFICERS.



IF HE TAKES BANARAS HE WILL EFFECTIVELY CUT US OFF FROM CALCUTTA ON THE ONE HAND AND ALLAHABAD AND LUCKNOW ON THE OTHER.









BATTLES ARE LOST  
IN A MATTER OF  
HOURS.



WE WISH TO STAY ON AT  
AZAMGARH AND...

ALL RIGHT.  
BUT...



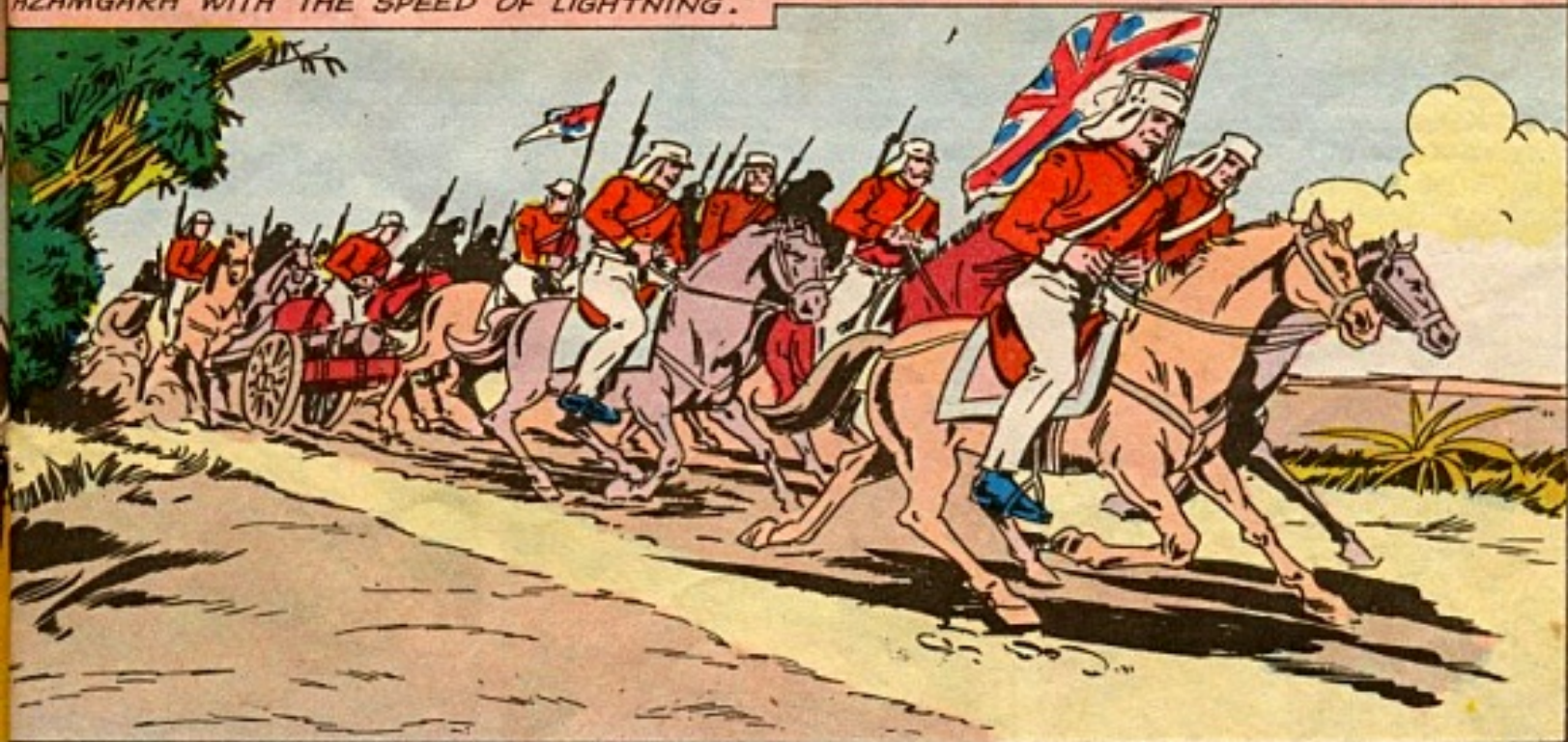
...I KNOW IT IS NOT  
THE RIGHT  
DECISION.



I ONLY PRAY  
I AM PROVED  
WRONG.

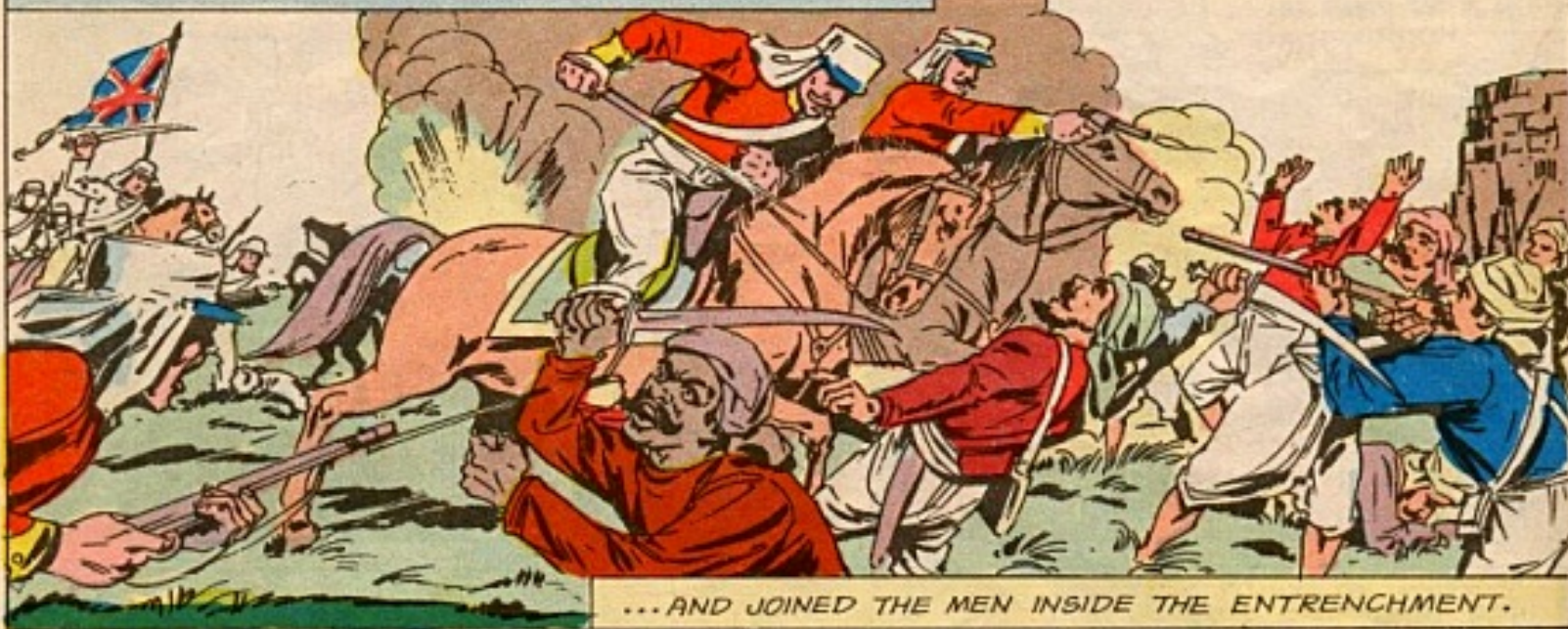


UNFORTUNATELY KUNWAR SINGH WAS PROVED RIGHT. COLONEL MARK MANAGED TO REACH  
AZAMGARH WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHTNING.





HE FOUGHT HIS WAY THROUGH THE BESIEGERS ...



... AND JOINED THE MEN INSIDE THE ENTRENCHMENT.

BUT WORSE WAS TO FOLLOW.

RAJA SAHEB, A WHOLE  
INFANTRY BRIGADE  
IS ON ITS WAY.



WHAT DO YOU  
SUGGEST? SHOULD  
WE FIGHT?

WE WILL BE  
BUTCHERED, RAJA  
SAHEB.



LUGGARD IS LEADING THE  
BRIGADE ...

ALL RIGHT.  
WE WILL GO  
BACK TO  
ARRAH.



WHO WILL VOLUNTEER TO  
HOLD LUGGARD'S MEN AT  
BAY WHILE THE REST  
GET AWAY?



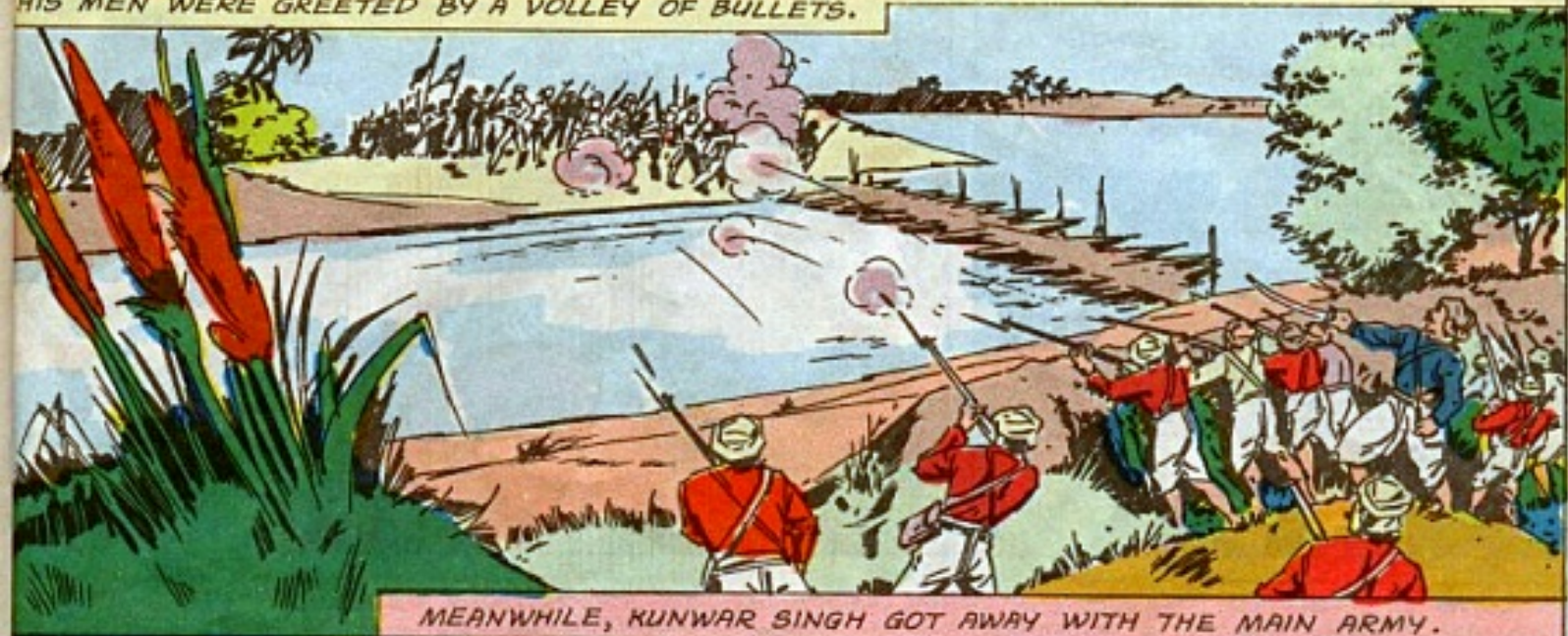
I WILL, RAJA SAHEB,  
WITH MY MEN.



IT WAS NISHAN SINGH,  
KUNWAR SINGH'S  
TRUSTED GENERAL.



THUS WHEN SIR LUGGARD, THE VETERAN BRITISH COMMANDER, REACHED THE RIVER TONS, HIS MEN WERE GREETED BY A VOLLEY OF BULLETS.



MEANWHILE, KUNWAR SINGH GOT AWAY WITH THE MAIN ARMY.

A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER, NISHAN SINGH JOINED KUNWAR SINGH.

LUGGARD HAS ANNOUNCED AN AWARD OF 25,000 RUPEES FOR YOUR HEAD, RAJA SAHEB.



AT LAST THE BRITISH HAVE RECOGNISED THE WORTH OF INDIANS!



AND THE MAN WHO WANTS TO CLAIM THE REWARD IS BRIGADIER DOUGLAS!

GOOD LUCK TO HIM.



AT NIGHT — DOUGLAS HAS CAUGHT UP WITH US, RAJA SAHEB.

I WANT YOU TO GET AWAY WITH THE MAIN ARMY.





DIVIDE YOUR MEN INTO TWO GROUPS. EACH GROUP SHOULD TAKE A DIFFERENT ROUTE AND MEET AT A CONVENIENT PLACE LATER.



KUNWAR SINGH HELD THE ENEMY AT BAY...



...LONG ENOUGH TO ENABLE THE MAIN ARMY TO GET AWAY. THEN HE ALSO JOINED NISHAN SINGH. TOWARDS EVENING —

SHALL WE REST OUR MEN FOR THE NIGHT?

LEAVE SUCH LUXURIES TO DOUGLAS. WE MUST MARCH ON.



KUNWAR SINGH'S MEN MARCHED DAY AND NIGHT...

...TILL THEY REACHED MANIAR.

WELCOME, RAJA SAHEB.

AT LAST WE ARE AMONG FRIENDS.





KUNWAR SINGH'S MEN RESTED AT MANIAR.

RAJA SAHEB, MAY I ASK  
YOU A QUESTION... IF  
YOU DON'T MIND?

GO AHEAD.



ARE WE GOING  
TO WIN THIS  
WAR?

IF YOU WANT AN  
HONEST ANSWER...



... NO. WE WILL NOT WIN  
THIS WAR.

THEN WHY WAR  
AT ALL? IT DOESN'T  
MAKE SENSE.  
I MEAN...



DO YOU REMEMBER  
TIPU SULTAN  
...AND HOLKAR?

OF COURSE, I DO,  
RAJA SAHEB. WHO CAN  
FORGET THEM?



WHEN TIPU FELL IN  
DISTANT MYSORE I WAS  
A LITTLE BOY IN BIHAR.



NOW AT THE AGE OF  
SEVENTY-FIVE, I STILL  
REMEMBER WHAT PEOPLE  
SAID ABOUT HIS WAR...



... THE WAR HE LOST...  
THE WAR THE BRITISH  
WON.









THAT NIGHT AT SHEOPUR GHAT—

THE BOATS ARE  
READY, RAJA SAHEB.

LET THE MEN CROSS  
OVER.



I WILL STAND  
GUARD.



WHILE KUNWAR SINGH'S MEN WERE  
ROWING AWAY...



... DOUGLAS' MEN WERE LOOKING FOR ELEPHANTS!

NO SIGN OF  
THEM HERE.

I THINK WE HAVE  
BEEN TAKEN FOR A RIDE.





BY THE TIME THE TIRED MEN ARRIVED AT THE RIGHT PLACE, KUNWAR SINGH'S MEN HAD  
CROSSED THE RIVER, ALL EXCEPT TWO HUNDRED.



KUNWAR SINGH WAS BOARDING THE LAST  
BOAT WHEN A BULLET HIT HIM IN THE LEFT  
WRIST.



HE UNSHEATHED HIS SWORD...



... CUT OFF THE INJURED WRIST ...



... AND RESUMED HIS JOURNEY.





APRIL 23, 1858: KUNWAR SINGH WAS BACK IN HIS OWN VILLAGE.



BRIGADIER DOUGLAS TOO HAD CROSSED THE GANGA AND WAS CAMPING AT ARRAH.

I NEED MORE MEN TO TAKE ON THE OLD WARRIOR ON HIS HOME GROUND.



LET'S AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF SIR LUGGARD.



LITTLE DID DOUGLAS KNOW THAT AT THAT VERY MOMENT THE OLD LION WAS ON HIS DEATHBED, WITH AMAR SINGH BY HIS SIDE.

BROTHER, I PROMISE I WILL CONTINUE THE FIGHT.



KUNWAR SINGH SMILED ...



... AND CLOSED HIS EYES NEVER TO OPEN THEM AGAIN.